

## CLAIMS

1. A method for providing particularized credit to a user in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the method comprising:
  - receiving an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network, the identifier indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content; and
  - providing a particular credit to the user based upon receipt of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the network is an Internet.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

11. An apparatus for providing particularized credit to a user in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network, the identifier indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content; and

means for providing a particular credit to the user based upon receipt of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

16. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a

redemption of the particular credit by the user.

17. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

18. A system for providing particularized credit to a user in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, in operative communication with the processor, that stores instructions that are executed by the processor to effectuate receiving an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network, the identifier indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content, and providing a particular credit to the user based upon receipt of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.

21. The system of claim 18, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

23. The system of claim 21, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

24. The system of claim 21, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

25. A method for receiving particularized credit in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the method comprising:

transmitting an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network to a server in the electronic content distribution system, the identifier

indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content; and

receiving a particular credit based upon the transmission of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.
27. The method of claim 25, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.
28. The method of claim 25, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.
29. The method of claim 25, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.
30. The method of claim 29, wherein the network is an Internet.
31. The method of claim 30, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

32. The method of claim 30, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

35. An apparatus for receiving particularized credit in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the apparatus comprising:  
means for transmitting an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network to a server in the electronic content distribution system, the identifier indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content; and  
means for receiving a particular credit based upon the transmission of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.

36. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.

37. The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.

38. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

40. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

41. The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

42. A system for receiving particularized credit in an electronic content distribution system that implements a network, the system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, in operative communication with the processor, which stores instructions that are executed by the processor to effectuate transmitting an identifier for a given read only optical storage medium through the network to a server in the electronic content distribution system, the identifier indicating that the given read only optical storage medium contains a particular content, receiving a particular credit based upon the transmission of the identifier, wherein the particular credit is usable for receiving the particular content through the electronic content distribution system.

43. The system of claim 42, wherein the identifier is a digital fingerprint that identifies the given read only optical storage medium.

44. The system of claim 42, wherein the given read only optical storage medium is a compact disc.

45. The system of claim 44, wherein the particular content includes a musical work.

46. The system of claim 44, wherein the particular content includes a musical compilation comprising a plurality of musical works.

47. The system of claim 45, wherein the electronic content distribution system downloads the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.

48. The system of claim 45, wherein the electronic content distribution system streams the musical work to the user through an Internet connection pursuant to a transaction including a redemption of the particular credit by the user.